

**FOURTH ANNUAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS MEETING  
February 24-26, 2004  
Savannah, GA**

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004  
Marshall House – Savannah, GA*

**Distributed Materials**

- Meeting Agenda and Participants
- Advisory Council Case Studies and Guidelines
- Draft Sanctuary Advisory Council National Report
- National News
- Savannah Morning News Gray's Reef Education Supplement

**Attendees**

HQ: Michael Weiss, Karen Brubeck, Liz Moore, Aida Pettegrue, Michael Murphy  
GRNMS: Reed Bohne, Becky Shortland, Gail Krueger, Jim Sullivan, April Fendley  
Field Sites: See Meeting Participant Handout  
Observers: See Meeting Participant Handout

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Reed Bohne welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Chair Judy Wright. Reed also distributed the Savannah Morning News education supplement about Gray's Reef. Chair Judy Wright welcomed everyone and talked a little about her background as a scuba instructor. Judy then shared an excerpt from Chicken Soup for the Ocean Lover's Soul.

Michael Weiss, Deputy Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, spoke in Dan Basta's absence to welcome everyone. Michael thanked Gray's Reef staff and all Chairs and Coordinators for their hard work and dedication. Michael discussed the history of the NMSP and the importance of advisory councils. He also commented on the budget and activities for the upcoming year.

Becky Shortland, Gray's Reef Planning Coordinator, commented on logistics for the day's events, most importantly lunch and dinner. She reminded participants to sign up for the field trip to Ossabaw Island on Friday.

Karen Brubeck, NMSP National Advisory Council Coordinator, asked that all participants introduce themselves. Karen also welcomed everyone to Savannah and thanked GR for hosting the meeting; she presented Becky Shortland with a gift of appreciation. Aida Pettegrue remarked on her role as the SAC Liaison. Karen discussed updates on the Advisory Council and the National Report. She also discussed the

evolution of councils; councils have become integral to the way NMSP performs. Karen briefly described the meeting agenda and materials.

### **Advisory Council Case Studies (refer to handouts for specifics)**

#### *Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Case Study*

Reginald White, HIHW Whale Watching Seat, opened by reading the Sanctuary's mission statement. Reginald discussed a workshop to study how to minimize vessel strikes on whales and factors affecting the risks of vessel strikes. Goals of the workshop were to prepare a summary report with preliminary recommendations to the Advisory Council. Methodology included panel discussions on vessel-whale interactions, on whale research and distribution, on vessel trends, and on industry/economic considerations and reporting; it also included breakout sessions to discuss vessel interactions with whales and to identify strategies for avoidance and mitigation of vessel strikes. Reginald described lessons learned from this workshop, i.e. the need for more education, outreach, and research efforts. He also talked about some unresolved issues such as enforcement and "innocent passage." Recommendations were made from the Council: 1. Research Committee to develop a monitory program and collision database and to coordinate with the Conservation Committee efforts to work with ferry and cruise ship operators to examine potential for near-misses or collisions; 2. Education Committee about guidelines and their importance; 3. Conservation Committee. Reginald noted some of the challenges that arised from the workshop, such as the role the Council should play in the recommendations and how to apply and implement the recommendations. Reginald then took questions from participants. Nathalie Ward commented on a working group that addresses vessel-strikes within their Council and emphasized the importance of maintaining a link in communication between sanctuary councils.

#### *Northwest Hawaiian Islands Case Study*

Moani Pai, Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coordinator, discussed the location of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Sanctuary. She noted that protection of the reserve is maintained throughout sanctuary development process. Moani commented on the significance of conservation, such as protection of coral reef ecosystem and maintenance of ecological integrity. This conservation should serve as guidelines for use during the designation of the sanctuary. Moani discussed the process of National Marine Sanctuary designation from a Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve; advantages of a sanctuary include extended jurisdiction. She described steps in the designation process: 1. Hold scoping meetings; 2. Issue review of public comments and prioritization; and 3. Develop draft and final EIS/Management Plan. The case study included development of fishing regulations consistent and compatible with objectives of proposed sanctuary designation to be provided to regional Fishery Management Councils. Guidance to FMC were developed through consultant research and ~20 fishing discussion groups. Results of the fishing discussion group process as well as draft fishing regulations were presented to the RAC in January 2004. In response, the Council created two subcommittees to work on fishing issues which will later be presented to NMSP. Moani emphasized that all staff members work in some way with the Council. She discussed lessons learned: continued communication between Council, staff, FMC, and others to keep process open;

importance of staff and Council attendance at FMC meetings; development of question/answer sheets to public and media; and learning from other sites within the program. Moani answered questions from participants.

#### *Thunder Bay Case Study*

Carol Shafto, Thunder Bay Council Chair, discussed location and specifics of Thunder Bay NMS; Thunder Bay is the only freshwater sanctuary and is the only sanctuary that is joint-managed between state and federal government. Carol described the need for better communication between Council members and the constituents they represent. She noted the lack of balance in communication between Council members and staff pre-designation and post-designation. Sanctuary updates and constituent reports were developed to aid in formal communication between staff, Council, and constituents. The first step in this development process was to identify constituents; the next step was to gather feedback from these constituents. The third step included presenting this feedback to the Council. The last step consisted of presenting information back to the constituent group, i.e. connecting the feedback loop. Benefits of the report include reconnecting Council with constituents and involving these constituents in the process, as well as introducing unknown issues/community perception to staff and council members. Carol discussed next steps in the constituent report development process, e.g. establishing formats and guidelines. Carol answered questions from participants.

#### *Gray's Reef Case Study*

Judy Wright, Gray's Reef Council Chair, presented a brief background on and location of Gray's Reef NMS. Judy mentioned that the staff and council has been involved in a five-year process of reviewing the management plan and developing a revised plan. Judy discussed the habitat and species present at GR. The case study investigated the concept of a marine research area within the sanctuary. Judy noted major issues/needs regarding a research area which were identified in scoping and strategy workshops. Actions taken by the Manager involved establishing a marine research area working group (currently being developed); this group requires active and broad-based representation of the user and science communities. Judy asked other Chairs and Coordinators about problems they have faced in establishing a research area and about methods of bringing scientists and users together. GP Schmahl acknowledged that one potential problem is possible over-use and take by scientists. Judy then took questions from participants.

#### *Olympic Coast Case Study*

Terrie Klinger, Olympic Coast Council Chair, discussed a process to investigate the development of marine zoning within the sanctuary. The process included establishing a Marine Conservation Working Group (MCWG), which would review status and effectiveness of existing zoning and make zoning strategy recommendations. Terrie described the chronology of the marine zoning process. The MCWG was established with various representations (Council, federal, state, Native American Tribes, other interest groups); the working group evaluated objectives and physical/biological factors affecting and effected by marine zoning as well as potential types and locations of zones. A Technical Advisory Panel was also established to examine bio-physical processes and important areas on the coastline, and independent meetings with Tribes were held to

discuss tribal concerns. A consensus report was produced with recognition of areas of conservation significance but with no management action recommendations. Terrie noted that the process continues. She also discussed various lessons learned, notably that jurisdictional issues became complex (refer to handout). Terrie answered questions from participants.

## **Adjourn for Lunch**

### **National Park Service Ocean Programs**

Gary Davis, a representative for Ocean Programs of the National Park Service, presented a brief background on his experience with the National Park Service and described the NPS mission. Gary noted that national parks do exist in the ocean as marine sanctuaries and refuges. The Antiquities Act has also established ocean National Monuments. Gary described how the National Park Service began with the establishment of Yellowstone NP in 1872 and has grown to incorporate an entire NP system under the General Authority Act. He noted the importance of fishing for connecting people with the environment. Gary also discussed the evolution of understanding of modern ecological systems; a stewardship strategy should incorporate the need to *know* about resources, to *restore* impaired ecosystems, to *protect* resources and ecosystems, and to *connect* people to the parks. Gary commented on characteristics of a healthy ecosystem as well as on patterns of failed fisheries. He mentioned that two perspectives exist on maintaining sustainable fisheries/ecosystems: fishermen and scientists. Gary discussed current ocean conditions and possible causes for these conditions. His conclusion was that “fully protected marine reserves work.” The National Park Service developed an Ocean Park Stewardship Strategy (Know, Restore, Protect, Connect) to address ocean conservation issues. Gary noted that fish and fishing should be different inside the park versus outside. He emphasized the importance of persistence and determination.

### **International Presentations**

Liz Moore, National Marine Sanctuary Program, presented a brief history of international activities of the NMSP. The NMSP has developed a formal structure for international activity coordination including a framework, activity team, strategic plan, and dedicated budget. Liz discussed current major international projects (relationships with several Asian nations, Australia, Caribbean basin nations, South Africa).

Bruce Kingston, Director of Communications and Education for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, provided information and statistics about the Great Barrier Reef. The GBR is the world’s largest marine protected area and world heritage area, which spans over 2000 km and includes over 3000 reefs. Bruce emphasized the importance of recognizing that the GBR includes much more resources that require protection than just coral reefs. He described the goals of the GBR Marine Park Authority and what is being done to protect the Reef; he also described objectives of the Representative Areas Program. He noted that the GBR is composed of thirty different reef habitats and forty different non-reef habitats. Bruce pointed out that a healthy reef has extensive long-term benefits. Various overlays of information were applied to come up with proposed “green” zones (MPAs). Information was drawn from recreational and commercial

fisheries; existing closures, tourism, other economic data. Utilizing the various communities involved, they were able to revise boundaries to accommodate the needed 20% of each RAP. Bruce described the procedure for Parliament approval of the Zoning Plan, which is currently in process.

Gail Jackson, Project Manager of Parks Canada's Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA) Initiative, presented a description of Parks Canada NMCA System, which serves to represent and conserve Canada's large marine ecosystems. Planning Assistant Cindy Giardetti discussed the status of the Lake Superior NMCA and the role of the Regional Advisory Committee; the RAC worked with Parks Canada to develop proposal, to elicit feedback, to debate issues, and to clarify policy and practices. Gail noted that most public input believed that "the area should be kept the way it is" and that resources and uses should be protected. She described the development concept for the Lake Superior NMCA, which incorporates 3,861 square miles (10,000 sq km). Cindy thus discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Management Advisory Board as well as the last steps in the Initiative. Gail and Cindy answered questions from participants.

### **National Park Service Ocean Programs, Revisited**

Gary Davis of the National Park Service was asked to complete his presentation. "There is nothing more difficult than to initiate a new order of things." (Machiavelli, 1525) Gary stressed that the same levels of protection on land should be extended to the sea; again, persistence and determination are important. Gary responded to questions from participants. Gary commented that the NPS could benefit from local advisory councils like SACs, although they are not allowed at this time (only one council for all national parks). "Conservation is health care for the environment."

### **Communications Session**

Michael Murphy, NMSP National Outreach Coordinator, discussed methods and importance of communication. Michael noted that the NPS is a great role model for the NMSP. While the park service manages 121,000 sq miles, the NMSP manages over 150,000 sq miles. Michael stressed the importance of enhancing council communications and began by a little exercise to define a SAC.

What is communication? Michael stated that communication is both a symbolic and a social process and involves co-orientation; it involves individual interpretation, shared meaning, and occurs in a context (context dictates modes of communication).

Why is communication important? Michael stated that it ensures that the public receives accurate and timely information about National Marine Sanctuaries/Sanctuary Advisory Councils and vice versa. The NMSP produces and delivers information to the public via outreach – identifying and communicating with audiences – and planning. Michael then discussed strategic communication planning and various tools for communicating, e.g. web sites, informational materials, public events, media, training, etc.

How do advisory councils fit into how the NMSP communicates with the public? Michael stressed that councils are a very important audience and described ways to

enhance communication between councils and the Sanctuary Program. Michael asked for input from participants about specific actions being taken and tools being utilized to improve communication at field sites. Michael commented that every council is unique and has different information/communication needs. He also stressed that Councils are liaisons between the sanctuary and constituent groups and are important tools for communication (the “eyes and ears” of the Sanctuary Program). Michael discussed the development of a “national council communications plan/resource toolbox” to identify tools and methods for communication as well as responsibilities of council and staff members. Communication across councils should have some consistency. Michael reiterated that planning is a key step in communicating effectively.

### **Announcements**

Becky Shortland and Karen Brubeck provided details on dinner and on Wednesday’s bus trip to Gray’s Reef office.

### **Adjourn**

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

*Skidaway Institute of Oceanography – Savannah, GA*

### **Distributed Materials**

- Advisory Council Case Studies

### **Welcome Back**

Karen Brubeck welcomed everyone back to the meeting and asked for participants to state their name and affiliation again. Reed Bohne provided an introduction to the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography campus and the Institute’s relationship with Gray’s Reef NMS. The campus is the focal point for marine science activity in the area. Becky Shortland commented on logistics for the day and, upon request, defined the “low country boil” dinner!

### **Advisory Council Case Studies, Continued (refer to handouts for details)**

#### *Gulf of the Farallones Case Study*

Barbara Emley, GF Council Chair, described the history of the boundaries and of the Advisory Council for Gulf of the Farallones NMS. As part of the joint management plan review, GF examined configuration of Gulf of the Farallones/Monterey Bay NMS joint border. A shift was proposed to move the boundary south to Ano Nuevo/Santa Cruz County border. Letters were sent to HQ to reiterate the need for a boundary working group. After public hearings and Council meetings, February 2004 was projected as the date for the final decision on the GF boundary. Barbara noted that challenges included lack of socioeconomic and biogeographic considerations. She also stated that many lessons were learned: how to work as a team and the importance of communication with constituents and with Headquarters. Barbara answered questions from participants.

### *Monterey Bay Case Study*

Stephanie Harlan, MB Council Chair, stated that a very good relationship exists between Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones. She acknowledged the fear of opening up a boundary-change discussion and the possibility of jeopardizing oil and gas leak protection. Stephanie stated that Council presence in the Santa Cruz County was desired to promote the Sanctuary in the area as an ecotourism effort. A brochure was produced for this purpose that has been widely distributed to hotels, etc. A sanctuary scenic trail was also developed along the coast to promote ecotourism. The idea was then extended to Monterey County and suggests a long-term project to have joint signage and combined trails. Stephanie discussed Council formal inquiries to HQ about a government exemption to the Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Protection Act (MMPA). Stephanie stated that the case study focused on the MB joint management plan and the primary issue to ban jet-skiing within the Sanctuary. Working groups were established to address action plans in the management plan, and numerous public hearings were held to gather public input. After much reworking on the plan, the result was a compromise between the fishing and conservation communities. The management plan is currently still in review/revision. Stephanie noted that the staff and council learned a lot about the Sanctuary and about communication and compromise. Nicole Capps, MB Coordinator, presented some details about the “Threatened and Thriving” poster series. Stephanie responded to questions from participants. Michael Murphy mentioned that NMSP is devoting efforts to improve marine recreation, ecotourism, and education for the sanctuaries.

### *Channel Islands Case Study*

Michael Hanrahan, CI Council Business Representative, presented his background on his involvement with the SAC. Michael stated that his case study focuses on Marine Reserves Implementation and Phase Two Planning. He provided a chronology of the establishment of marine reserves, which were proposed by the CI Marine Resource Restoration Committee, and the SAC’s review of this proposal. A council working group was created to review the need for and implementation of these protected areas. The marine reserve network (10 marine reserves, 2 marine conservation areas) was legally established under state law in April 2003. Michael discussed how the Council then shifted their focus from reserve design/debate to implementation. Working groups were created to determine how to communicate with and to educate the public and constituents about these protected areas, which Michael noted has been a challenge. He also emphasized the necessity for state support of marine reserves. Michael described Phase Two of the process, which considers the extension of marine reserves into federal waters. He noted that lessons learned from the designation, scoping, implementation processes included empathy, humility, understanding, and taking a break. Michael answered questions from participants.

### *Florida Keys Case Study*

George Neugent, FK Council Chair, stated that their case study focused on the Large Vessel Working Group Key West. George provided some highs and lows in the history and economy of Key West. He noted that Key West has a tourism-based economy; thus, many factors exist that jeopardize ocean health. Cruise ships contribute significantly to

the Keys economy, which cause tremendous concerns by citizens and various environmental factions. The need to determine cause/effect of turbidity and impact of sedimentation on corals at the reef line was identified; a cruise ship task force was created to assess these effects. George commented that the Navy proposed a dredging project, but concerns arised that this dredging would increase turbidity in the area. The FKNMS Advisory Council created a Large Vessel Working Group to examine natural resource issues concerning large vessel operations in the sanctuary. George discussed the LVWG's proposed recommendations (e.g. increased updates and monitoring, incorporation of Naval oceanographic data) to the SAC, who later voted to support these recommendations. He also mentioned that the Sanctuary recently unveiled an Eco-Discovery Center to educate and inform cruise ship visitors. George responded to questions from participants.

### **Adjourn for Lunch**

Michael Harahan presented the new Encyclopedia of the Sanctuary on the Ocean.com web site while lunch was served.

### **Advisory Council Case Studies, Continued (refer to handouts for details)**

#### *Stellwagen Bank Case Study*

Susan Farady, SB Council Secretary, talked first about the SBNMS Advisory Council and the status of management plan review. She stated that their case study centered on maritime heritage resources in the sanctuary. The Maritime Heritage Resources Program has achieved some successes, e.g. collaboration with various institutions, grants, steamship *Portland* documentaries on History and Science channels. Susan also noted that 12 of 16 shipwrecks have been located. Background on the history of the *Portland* was presented (shipwreck discovered in 1989), as well as on the collision of the *Frank A. Palmer* and the *Louise B. Crary*. Working groups were established and public hearings were held to examine various issues, notably maritime heritage resources. Susan commented that action plan and strategies are being developed; coordination issues were also developed to address/encourage education and participation by other agencies. Susan then answered questions from participants.

#### **Flower Gardens Council Update**

George Schmahl, FGNMS Manager, provided background on FGNMS and on the establishment of an Advisory Council. Flower Gardens NMS was designated in 1992 and contains about fifty percent coral cover. George discussed varies species that can be present in the sanctuary and noted that the sanctuary is within an extensive oil and gas infrastructure. Oil and gas impacts were a primary concern for the FG sanctuary upon designation but "long-term monitoring indicates no significant detrimental impacts related to oil and gas activities." Studies are being done to examine the sanctuary as an essential fish habitat. George pointed out major resource issues for the sanctuary, i.e. oil/gas activities, recreational SCUBA diving, fishing, anchoring and vessel impacts, artificial reefs, and water quality (of particular concern). George commented on facts and figures of the sanctuary office and operations; approval to hire a SAC Coordinator



occurred this year, and the SAC is currently being formed. George responded to questions from participants.

**Advisory Council Coordinators Break for GRNMS Office and SkIO Campus Tour**  
**Advisory Council Chairs Attend Chairs-Only Open Session**  
(Notes to follow.)

**Adjourn**

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*  
*Marshall House – Savannah, GA*

**Distributed Materials**

- Bluewater Network Cruise Ship Pollution Petition
- Bluewater Network Cruise Ship Pollution Facts
- International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL) Statement
- Briefing on Cruise Ships and Environmental Issues
- Crystal Cruises “National Marine Sanctuaries” Brochure

**Welcome Back and Opening of Public Meeting**

Karen Brubeck welcomed everyone back to the meeting and stated announcements for the day. Becky Shortland commented on the day’s logistics. Gray’s Reef NMS Chair Judy Wright welcomed everyone and called for participant introductions. Michael Crye, President of the International Council of Cruise Lines, and Randy Zurcher, Bluewater Network Representative, were visitors at the meeting.

Dan Basta, NMSP Director, noted that he welcomes any questions regarding the program. Dan discussed the role of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in the NMS Program. He listed major topics of discussion for the day: 1. Reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuary Act and 2. Policy issues, notably the cruise line industry. Dan recognized the need to find common ground between conservation and socio-economics and emphasized that the partnership with NMSP needs to be extended to other agencies and affiliations. He also stressed the importance and significance of Advisory Council members. “This is not the beginning of the end, this is the end of the beginning.” –Winston Churchill

Judy Wright opened the floor to public comment by reading a letter from the Ocean Conservancy supporting prohibition of cruise ship discharges within National Marine Sanctuaries. Randy Zurcher, a Bluewater Network Representative, discussed clean air/clean water issues. Randy urged forwarding a policy of no discharge by cruise ships, which represent a growing threat to sanctuaries. He stated that “cruise ships are floating cities” and presented statistics about cruise waste/discharge and about the cruise ship industry. Randy noted that several cruise lines have been charged with felony violations and mentioned that the industry pays “little or nothing for environmental protection.” Randy emphasized that all ships can transit through any marine sanctuary within a day;

thus, discharging *outside* of sanctuary waters is possible. Randy continued to urge NOAA to adopt a policy prohibiting cruise ship discharges within sanctuaries.

Michael Crye, ICCL President, noted that he is a retired Coast Guard officer and a SCUBA diver who has great appreciation for coral reefs and coastal water quality. He stated that the cruise industry disagrees with many items which Randy mentioned and distributed a handout regarding waste management practices and procedures. Mike stated that ships should not discharge without waste water purification systems, which produce advanced effluent water quality. He feels that policy makers should promote development of new technology, e.g. advanced water treatment systems. Mike commented that, based on an objective look at reports on water quality issues, the majority of issues come from land-based sources. He said that the Coast Guard Navigation Inspection Circular acknowledges procedures and standards for environmental compliance. Mike also acknowledged ICCL's partnership agreement with Conservation International; a science panel has been established to investigate internal practices and to provide recommendations for improvements and guidance on best practices for waste water removal/discharge and, thus, to encourage greater awareness of ICCL's goal to protect ocean resources. He noted that major issues for ocean water quality are in coastal water areas. Mike emphasized keeping into context what the issues really are and inciting new technologies and developments. In response to a question from Judy Wright, Mike stated that his organization represents over 100 ships and that smaller vessels are represented by the Passenger Vessel Association.

### **Reauthorization Presentation and Discussion**

Liz Moore, NMSP, presented a reauthorization update. She addressed how the NMSP was authorized by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), which is up for reauthorization. Liz discussed comments received from various sites and councils regarding reauthorization and how this information was analyzed/sorted. Next steps in the reauthorization process were also mentioned, including the draft and clearance processes of an administration bill. Dan Basta also commented on the details of these processes.

Judy Wright opened the floor for questions and discussion on reauthorization. Dan noted that this is a very difficult and complex process but stated that councils and constituents should not get discouraged. Dan also encouraged creating subcommittees on the council to facilitate participation in the reauthorization process and to provide comments to him on legislation. Terrie Klinger mentioned recommendations made by their Council, which included clarifying the role of alternates. Susan Farady also asked for flexibility in and clarification of role of alternates. Carol Shafto mentioned that her Council would like the ability to have more than fifteen regular members and noted that specifics of how local councils operate should not be under federal regulation; other members reiterated the need to eliminate a SAC member limit. Karen Brubeck responded that she submitted comments to the program to eliminate the fifteen member limit or to clarify the limit in some way. Liz Moore stated that the Program will continue to try to provide updates when possible. Judy Wright closed the floor to discussion.

### **NMSP Policy Presentation and Discussion**

Liz Moore presented a timeline/status of policy topics discussed last year. She outlined current priorities, including policies already in development. Current policy topics include artificial reefs, zoning, telecommunications cables, wildlife interaction, cruise ships, aquaculture, and alternative energy. Liz stated that the Program's focus is on utilizing resources to complete policies that are currently in the works and on preparing action plans for the development of new policies. She commented on the roles of the advisory councils in the policy process. Liz answered any questions and facilitated discussion on policies. Dan Basta emphasized that the Program continues to mature. Aquaculture was discussed on various levels; Liz introduced Jim Sullivan (GRNMS Regional Projects Coordinator) who is working on the topic of aquaculture. Jim then provided an update on issues and status of aquaculture. Specific site concerns and issues were discussed. Judy Wright asked if council members can access a list of current priorities; Liz noted that policy issues and their status will eventually be included in the new web redesign but that these issues can be distributed upon request. Various Chairs suggested that the policy of Cultural Protocols/Practices be moved to the top of the list of "next priorities" (after current priorities have been addressed). Bruce Kingston, Director of Communication and Education for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, was asked to describe how they involve indigenous communities in their program. Additionally, the difficulty of communicating with fishing communities and of resolving the values of both the conservation and fishing communities was identified. Program and Sanctuary "Lessons Learned" may be a beneficial topic of discussion at National meetings.

*Action:* A discrete list of policy issues will be emailed to SAC Chairs.

### **Adjourn for Lunch**

### **NMSP Policy Discussion, Continued**

Discussion by Chairs and Coordinators regarding site issues and interests continued.

### **Cruise Ship Presentation and Discussion**

Liz Moore presented a general background on the interest of cruise ship activities, notably ship discharges. She proposed the following question: What NMSP action is warranted regarding cruise ship activities in sanctuary waters?

Judy Wright asked Stephanie Harlan, Monterey Bay NMS Council Chair, to help facilitate discussion due to MBNMS' experience with cruise ship discharge within sanctuary waters; Stephanie presented a statement, chronology, and recommendation from MB regarding this discharge. The question was posed as to whether a specific ship industry should be targeted or if other ship industries should be included in the discussion, e.g. cargo ships, naval vessels, etc. George Neugent commented that the cruise ship industry is important to the economy of some communities and that tertiary-level water treatment could solve much of the discharge problem. Terri Klinger responded that, although liquid effluent can be very clean, advanced waste-water treatment systems often release solid effluent as well which can be very concentrated.

Mike Hanrahan supported the idea of discharge standards (e.g. testing/certification programs) to encourage more environmentally-friendly vessels versus a blanket ban of discharge in sanctuary waters.

The topic of voting to support or oppose a proposed resolution was discussed. Council Chairs generally agreed that full representation of site-specific councils (i.e. consulting with all members of each Advisory Council) must be made before positions are taken on national policy. Discussion continued on the topic of cruise ship discharge and whether or not discharge can be contained on ships for the length of time required to transit sanctuary waters (16+ hours). Susan Farady emphasized the necessity for integration of national policy with site issues and concerns and mentioned this particular topic as a “case study” for this integration. *Council Chairs agreed that discussion and working group progress on the cruise ship issue should continue at HQ and should be a high priority.*

Chair Judy Wright proposed that the following be reflected from this meeting:

1. Continued work by HQ on processes of problems associated with cruise ships should be a priority.
2. Chairs agree that “harmful discharge” should not occur in sanctuary waters.
3. More facts regarding cruise ship activities are desired.

Stephanie Harlan proposed the motion that Council Chairs continue to urge the National Office to develop policy and to consider regulations for prohibiting discharge of solid and liquid materials from cruise ships in sanctuary waters, except materials treated in a tertiary fashion. George Neugent seconded the motion. Barbara Emley noted that discussion of regulatory possibilities should also be included. Due to a lack of extensive discussion with and direction from site-specific Council members on how to vote, the balance of the group felt that it was premature to act upon; thus, voting on the motion was delayed. At this point, both the motion and second were withdrawn.

*Consensus statement:* Council Chairs urge the National Program to explore regulatory and voluntary strategies which address issues of cruise ship discharge within the sanctuaries and to report back to sanctuary managers and councils.

### **Public Comment**

Judy Wright opened the floor to public comment. Mike Crye, President of ICCL, emphasized that his cruise industry has made an effort to comply with environmental protection/regulations. He commented on the Crystal Cruise line and vessel discharges in Monterey Bay, noting that the area consists of significant deepwater ocean where the impact of discharge was negligent but was nevertheless in violation. Mike stated that “discharges will happen” and when they do, they receive a lot of press. He suggested that meeting participants take a look at municipal systems, to which he recommended decoupling storm water from municipal waste water systems. Mike reiterated that his organization worked with Coast Guard to establish an inspection procedure regarding where and when to discharge (i.e. a method of verification). He understands that the right thing to do is to make environmental progress; however, the industry understands that

mistakes/accidents will occur but should be held accountable. Terrie Klinger asked if ICCL members would be willing to allow waste-water observers on ships. Mike responded that it would be an expense issue but stated that he is willing to engage in limited discussion; he emphasized ICCL's current partnership with Conservation International.

Randy Zurcher, Bluewater Network Representative, thanked everyone for spending time on this issue. Randy stated that "[the cruise] industry is a rogue industry." He noted that millions of dollars have been paid in fines and that many of these violations were felonies. Randy also mentioned that voluntary agreements do not work and are not enforceable by law. He feels that no environmental or technical reason exists that ships cannot hold discharge while in sanctuary waters. He provided his organization's web site: [bluewaternetwork.org](http://bluewaternetwork.org). Randy also noted that although money is spent by cruise participants when on land, they do not however spend money on hotels, food, tax; the cruise industry does not have nearly as large of an economic impact as one might think.

Judy Wright closed the public comment period and adjourned the public meeting.

### **Close Out Session**

Karen Brubeck made announcements and action items then asked for feedback on this meeting. She asked for input on the length of meeting, on case studies and formats, and on the utility of continuing annual meetings. Several Chairs felt that the meeting should be more issue-oriented with more individual participation and discussion. Andrew Palmer suggested that the timing of the meeting be changed to a different month to accommodate travel to/from different climates. Many participants felt that Coordinators-only and Chairs-only sessions were helpful. Gary Davis stated that the meetings are a great opportunity to explore partnerships and to learn from one another. Participants agreed that annual meetings are beneficial and essential!

Dan Basta concluded with final comments. He emphasized the importance of a systematic group of people working in a holistic way. NOS is committed to helping NOAA establish leadership in integrated ocean management. An excellent Sanctuary HQ staff are the force-magnifiers of what Chairs do. Dan stated that his objective is that leaders must function independently of other leaders – building a bigger leadership community.

George Neugent presented Chair Judy Wright with a token of appreciation on behalf of all chairs and participants present.

### **Adjourn**